

ECHO IRELAND

Journal of the
Irish Radio Transmitters Society
January/February 2001



The late John Lynch W6CCY of California who passed away on November 20th

**IRTS Annual Dinner
and
Annual General Meeting
April 7/8th
See page 3**

**IRTS
Activity Weekend
March 17th & 18th**

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The views expressed in the Newsletter do
not necessarily represent the views of the
Society or the Editor

**Deadline for next edition
March 9th**

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South Dublin in the Field

South Dublin Radio Club members on an winter outing to the Ridge of Cappard in County Laois where they set up stations on both HF and VHF.

Peter EI7FDB, Tony EI7FKB, Nicholas EI5FLB and Mark EI7FNB

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John Love NZ4QJ ex KE4TCX
(Thanks K0EFV and EI8EM)

IRTS Awards

Nominations are requested by the Awards Manager Peter EI4HX for the following IRTS Awards:- [page 19 of the new 2000 Year Book]

ARUP Cup , Collins Cup , Pat Conway Cup , Folan Shield , Sheila Piper Cup, Kevin Freeny Trophy and the Ian Morris Trophy.

EI4HX QTHR or epost
<ei4hxpermental@eircom.net>

Applications are also invited for the EI7IQ 6 Meter Activity Awards National/international awards. These should be sent to the Contest Manager John McDonnell EI6IR.

**All IRTS Cups and
Trophies must be re-
turned as soon as possible.**

**Return to EI4HX
or any committee member**

New Web Site for South Dublin Radio Club

South Dublin Radio Club has a new web site. The new site includes a membership list, details of club activities, links to other radio sites, a photo album and general information on amateur radio.

The new site is at <http://www.qsl.net/ei2sdr/> and is well worth a visit.

Irish Radio Transmitters Society Annual General Meeting 2001

Members are hereby notified that the Annual General Meeting of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society will be held at 1500 on Sunday April 8th 2001 at the Limerick Inn, Ennis Road, Limerick.

Rule 23.1 requires that the committee shall, at least 28 days notice prior to the Annual General Meeting, send to all paid up members a list showing the nominees for the offices of President and Vice-President and eleven committee positions.

The following are the Committee's nominations;

President	Dave Moore, EI4BZ
Vice-President	John Corless, EI7IQ

Committee	
EI3GV	Brendan De hOra
EI3IX	Joe McFadden
EI4GK	Sean Donelan
EI4HX	Peter Grant
EI5DD	Steve Wright
EI5DI	Paul O'Kane
EI6FE	Paul Kirkby
EI6HW	Noel Mulvihill
EI6IR	John McDonnell
EI7CD	Sean Nolan
EI7IS	Mark Wall

The names of other members eligible and willing to serve as President, Vice-President or as Committee members shall be added to the list upon receipt of nominations in writing, by any ten paid-up ordinary members in the case of a nominee for the Presidency or Vice-Presidency, or by any two paid-up ordinary members in the case of a nominee for any of the eleven committee positions. (Rule 23.2)

See Page 26 of the current Year Book for all the rules relating to elections.

Accommodation in Limerick

Here is a list of a number of Bed and Breakfasts and Guest Houses in Limerick City; all these are quite close to the Limerick Inn Hotel. Any further queries please contact Paul EI6FE on 061-360122 or any member of the Limerick Radio Club.

Name	Address	Phone.
Armada Lodge	1 Elm Drive, Ennis Rd	061-326993
Ashgrove House	42 Rossroe Ave, Caherdavin, Ennis Rd	061-453338
Coonagh Lodge	Coonagh East, Ennis Rd	061-327050
Clarehaven	Ennis Rd	061-455218
Clifton Guest Hse	Ennis Rd	061-451166
Culliney Mhor	Ennis Rd	061-328966
Dromatha	Ennis Rd	061-326302
Ennis House	2 Inagh Drive, Caherdavin, Ennis Rd	061-326257
Glen Eagles	12 Vereker Gds, Ennis Rd	061-455521
Lisheen	Coonagh, Ennis Rd	061-455393
Mount Gerard	O Connell Ave	061-314981
Rosmoy Town House	1 Alexandra Terrace, O Connell Ave	061-314556
Santa Cruz	10 Coolraine Terrace, Ennis Rd	061-454500
Santolina	Coonagh, Ennis Rd	061-451590
Travel Lodge	Ennis Rd	1800-709 709
Trebor	Ennis Rd	061-454632

On The Air

With Declan Craig EI6FR

Declan Craig, EI6FR,
167 St. James's Road,
Greenhills, Dublin 12
ei6fr@gofree.indigo.ie

Firstly I would like to take the opportunity to wish everybody a very Happy New Year.

As mentioned last month this will be my last On the Air column, so I would like to thank those of you who have contributed to the column down through the years and shared something of their DXing experience with all of us.

I've really enjoyed writing the column each month and seeing the increasing EI presence in DX pileups and in contests as the years have passed.

I'm delighted to be able to announce that from the next issue, the On the Air column will be written by Anthony EI2HY. Anthony took over the column for a few months in 1999 while I was away on the ZL9CI DXpedition and did an excellent job.

He is very active DXer, always to be found in the pileups and has also taken part in several IOTA DXpeditions over the past few years.

I would encourage readers to support his column fully with their contributions. EI2HY will publish details of how you may contact him in the next issue.

So, what's been or is currently happening in the world of DX.

Firstly, a little bit of bad news. The announced DXpedition to North Korea which was to have begun on January 7th with the callsign P5UK was unfortunately subject to a late cancellation by the Korean military authorities.

North Korea ranks as number 1 on the DXCC most wanted list as the previous demonstration operation by Martti Laine OH2BH and team having made only a handful of QSO's and these mainly with JA.

Ham Radio is not of course a priority issue with the Korean authorities who face terrible economic problems. Hopefully, the door to that country has begun to open and we'll have an opportunity to work it before long.

Of course we've all seen the press coverage of the meetings between the leaders of North and South Korea's recently and read of the first mutings of the issue of reunification. It's worth remembering

that among antenna knowledge and propagation study, political awareness is a valuable tool for the DXer.

The other Big One on air right now is the operation from Bouvet Island in the sub-Antarctic by Chuck N4BQW. Bouvet was last on air in 1990 when the 3Y5X DXpedition took place. I was moving QTH at the time so missed that one so I guess I'll be spending much of my time chasing a QSO with Chuck who is operating with the callsign 3Y0C. Although Chuck will be on the island until March it does not look as if its going to be an easy job. Chuck is part of a scientific research team on the island and his available time for radio will be limited by this. He's also had a number of problems with his generator, which restricted him to battery power and it also meant he could not run his linear.

Often his operating periods have lasted only 10-20 minutes. The weather is of course very severe, making it difficult to erect and keep up antennas.

Hope springs eternal in the DXers heart however and we'll keep listening.

News of Chuck can be obtained daily on two excellent websites, www.qsl.net/zr1dq and www.qsl.net/wd4ngb.

Chuck by the way is an astronaut and an interesting biopic is also available on the NASA website.

Another DXpedition that's been doing a good job is the Italian guys in Laos as XW3QBR and XW3ZNR.

They've been loud across all bands and in particular have had very good signals on the low bands. They were loud here in the early evening on 80m CW and workable on my simple Butternut HF2V vertical.

Low band conditions have been particularly good over the last couple of weeks with lots of very loud Asian stations on 40 and 80m meters.

9V1YC has been showing each evening on 7011 about 22:00 UTC while on 80m JT1CO has shown each evening with a consistently good signal.

SU9ZZ has been a regular feature on 160m along with VK6HD and scores of JA just after our sunset. My Top Band antenna is on the poor side of inade-

quate. However I did catch a wonderful opening at about 06:30 UTC with stations in the USA from Colorado, Nevada and other distant states booming in.

The higher bands are also performing well. I've spent a lot of time on 12m where the EI callsign still attracts plenty of attention. When not on 12m, the 15m band had been the frequency of choice with some very nice long path openings to VK and ZL in the mornings and excellent openings to the West coast USA in the evenings.

The ARRL RTTY Roundup contest took place last weekend, while not a serious effort, I did make several hundred QSO's and had a lot of fun making sure that the EI multiplier was available. Spent most of the time on 15m while Ken EI4DW set the pace on the 10m band.

There's lots of software now available to allow your pc soundcard run RTTY without the expense of a multimode TNC so hope to see lots more EI's on the screen before too long.

The first major contests of the season are the ARRL DX Contests taking place in Feb for CW and March for SSB (see the contest calendar for exact dates). As these contests require DX stations (that's us) to work USA and Canadian stations, they make an excellent introduction to the contesting scene with lots of loud USA guys calling you and the additional attraction of maybe completing your Worked All States (or maybe even Worked all US counties .. all 3076 of them) award.

If contesting is not your bag there's still plenty coming up in the next few weeks to keep you busy.

Hrane YT1AD will lead a large scale DXpedition to the rare Pacific atoll of Conway Reef. They should be operational from Feb 20th through Feb 28th when they return to Fiji.

Also in the Pacific the island of Juan Fernandez (of Robinson Crusoe fame) will be activated by Pat CE1VLY. Pat will use the unusual callsign of 3G0Z one for the prefix hunters.

To the other side of the South American continent, the much cancelled, Peter and Paul Rocks DXpedition has been re-announced, this time for a time slot of Feb 7th to Feb 15th.

Across to the Indian Ocean now to the Comoros Islands, where ahead of the much publicised D68C mega operation for March, EA3BT and EA3WL will mount a somewhat smaller scale operation from Feb 13th to Feb 28th. These guys made an excellent job of their operation from Annabon and no doubt will do likewise from D6.

To finish a couple of bits of DXCC news The ARRL have announced a new 17m single band DXCC award, cards may be submitted from Jan 2nd 2001 and those who have computerised records in place with ARRL will have their records updated.

XX9 ...rumours are that moves are afoot to have Macao deleted from the DXCC entity list, however counter petitions are being prepared and we'll just have to await the outcome of this one.

Ok well that's it from me for now, as I said it's been a pleasure and I look forward to reporting DX to Anthony in the future and reading his column each month.

73 es GL de Declan EI6FR VA CL

P.S.

Friday the 13th's might be lucky for some but Friday the 12th's are even better for DXers. After spending each day since December 20th listening for 3Y0C he finally popped up on 14.260 at 18:40.

I happened to be in the shack to listen for a few minutes prior to night shift. Chuck announced that he was running on batteries and would work 5 stations before QRT for the day.

Most of the crowd must have been hanging out on 14.195 as Chuck worked myself, 2 Italians an SP and PA in the clear before QRT.

What a thrill when it works out that way, now to buy a lotto ticket

EI6FR

Input for the next issue to Anthony EI2HY.

His e-mail address is ei2hy@iol.ie

9V Post - DXpedition Videos

The FO0AAA Clipperton Island Video

Now available.

Written and produced by
James Brooks 9V1YC.

**This video is available in
Ireland for IR£15**

Declan Craig EI6FR,
167 St. James Rd,
Greenhills, Dublin 12.

**The ZL9CI
Campbell Island
Video
also available at IR£15**

**SPECIAL -
Purchase both videos
together for IR£20**

Mayo Radio Experimenters Network

Repeater

The Mayo Repeater EI2MRR is now located on its new site near Balla, and traffic through the repeater would be most welcome, so that the Mayo Club can judge its coverage performance.

The Repeater is on R0 145.600 MHz with input 600 down. Access is by way of 1750Hz toneburst OR by a 77Hz CTCSS tone.

The January Meeting of the club appointed a committee to deal with the proposed 2001 Rally to coincide with the IRTS AGM, which the club hopes to host.

Classes

Theory and Morse classes are due to commence in the last week of January and interested parties should contact John McDonnell EI6IR, on 094 60127 immediately.

Worked All Mayo Awards

Amateurs and Short Wave Listeners are reminded of the existence of the Worked All Mayo Awards, which are similar to the WAI awards but are based on the 93 Mayo squares only. Full details will be published in the Club's website, which will be up and running soon

The Ian Morris Memorial Trophy For Shortwave Listeners

The Ian Morris Memorial Trophy has been awarded annually at the IRTS AGM for the Shortwave Listener with the highest total of DXCC countries confirmed in the previous calendar year.

Up to now, QSL cards were required for all countries claimed. This has proved difficult for Listeners and a rule change has been introduced to ease the situation. This comes into immediate effect and applies to entrants at the forthcoming AGM in Limerick.

The new wording of the requirements is as follows;

Donated by South Dublin Radio Club, this trophy is awarded to the Shortwave Listener with the highest number of DXCC entities heard in the previous calendar year.

While confirmation of entities heard is not required, entrants will be expected to produce a number of QSL cards, (not necessarily from the year in question), to demonstrate their commitment to Shortwave Listening.

Entries for the upcoming Annual General Meeting should be Peter Grant EI4HX, IRTS Awards Manager by April 1st.

Reading the Mail

By
**Michael McNamara,
EI2CL**

Welcome to compilation #11 of "Reading the Mail" – my account of IRTS QSL Bureau activity from 25 November 2000 to 12 January 2001. Still not the usual level of packets during that time due I hope, to usual summertime doldrums in QSL writing, but nevertheless very hefty parcels from DARC, RSGB and UARL kept up the numbers of cards.

In addition smaller packets came from ARM Monaco, ARRL, BFRR Belarus, JARL, NZART, ÖVSV, RCP Paraguay and REF.

While sorting the cards the following were noticed and thought worthy of reporting: 2S4KHE/p, 3A2K, 3F1AC, 5A29, 5V7A, 9G5AA, A61AS, A92GE, BD7IA, CT3HF 50MHz, DL2OOO, EI2K, G3N, ET3AA, F5PFP/ZCG, GB700HUL, J28BS, K4OOO, M1P, M2000A, M2000Y/MRO11, M2000Y/MRU79, OE1XMF/U20, TA/G0PWW, ZL4BO 80m SSB, ZMY2K, 3DA0CA, 6W6/K3IPK, and 9K2/YO9HP. There were also cards from GKB2 and GKB4, Portishead Radio, following on the April 2000 Maritime/Amateur cross band operation. Much in evidence also were QSLs from Brazilian, French, Scottish, and Japanese islands, and for 50 and 144MHz activity during the past year or so.

Finally I should report W3OOU's QSL showing from his shack the view of Mooselookmeguntic Lake, Maine.

For island chasers the following were noticed: 2U0ARE/2K, AH7A, BV9A/JH3GCN, BX0QSL, EJ7MRE, F/G0MEU/P, FH/G3TXF, FP5KE, FS/PA3EWP/P, FY5FU/P, GP0STH, J20SF, JW/DL0MCM, JW/OK2PBM, KH6/W7GMH, KH0/JF2QNM, OH0/OK1UFM/p, R3RRC/6, R3RRC/ANT, S79LE, TM0H, V31KR, VK9LY, VQ9QM, 3B8/PB0AIT, 4S7EVG, 5H3/PA3GIO, 8J1RL.

Congratulations to all concerned. There will be more news from the Incoming QSL Bureau in the next edition of the IRTS Newsletter.

For now, all best wishes and good DX in 2001.

Michael McNamara, EI2CL.

Fancy a Challenge this Spring?

South Dublin Radio Club "Spring Challenge".

If your New Year's resolution is to be more active on the bands this year, then you should consider participating in the South Dublin Radio Club "Spring Challenge".

It is *not* a contest, but is a challenge to HF operators to see how many DXCC countries they can work over a period of a month, in normal QSO mode.

The challenge runs for the month of February. Each DXCC country worked on a HF band is worth a point and, in the "open" section, the same DXCC country can be worked on each band, giving a maximum possible 9 points per country.

Any simplex mode, or combination of modes, can be used. The only limitation is that contest contacts do not count: We want to encourage ordinary experimenters to enter, in the knowledge that they are not up against the experienced contesters!

For those who want to confine their activities to CW only, there is a "restricted" section in the challenge, for CW contacts on just one band.

South Dublin Radio Club has very attractive trophies for the open and restricted sections, and these are presented to the winners at the IRTS Annual General Meeting.

You can find full details of the Spring Challenge on page 23 of the current IRTS Year Book.

Joe Ryan EI7GY

Ten - Ten International Net

Ten-Ten International Net, or 10-10 for short, is an organization of amateur radio operators dedicated to maintaining high levels of amateur radio communications on the 10-meter amateur band (28.0-29.7 MHz).

Established in 1962, 10-10 has grown continuously since that day, with some ups and downs according to the numbers of sunspots and the openness of the band. As you read this, the number of 10-10 numbers issued to members now exceeds 70,000.

10-10 would welcome your membership in the organization if you have an amateur radio license with 10-meter privileges.

Any licensed amateur authorized to operate on the 10 meter band can join 10-10.

It is required that you contact 10 10-10 members (on 10 meters), listing their information as noted on the Membership Application form (10-10#, Call Sign, Operator's Name, Contact Date, City and State/Country).

US amateurs send their completed Membership Application and required dues payment to the Data Manager, 10-10 International Net, Inc., 643 North 98th Street, #142 Omaha, NE 68114-2332.

DX amateurs should send the application to the DX Call Area Manager, Carol Hugentober, K8DHK, #29588, 4441 Andreas Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45211-2622, U.S.A.

DX amateurs: Please remember that dues must be paid in US dollars and by International Postal Money Order only.

The Data Manager will assign you a 10-10 number and send it to you along with your new member package.

Silent Key Bill Orr, W6SAI

Amateur Radio legend William I. "Bill" Orr, W6SAI, of Menlo Park, California, died in his sleep January 24. He was 81.

An ARRL member, Orr was best known for his numerous amateur radio books and reference works, many aimed at beginners. His titles include The Radio Handbook, The Beam Antenna Handbook, The Quad Antenna Handbook, The VHF-UHF Manual and The W6SAI HF Antenna Handbook, some written in collaboration with Stu Cowan, W2LX.

Licensed in 1934 at age 15 as W2HCE in New York, Orr graduated in electrical engineering from the University of California in the early 1940s.

In his younger years, Orr was a well-known DXer and DXCC Honor Roll member. He also was involved in DXpeditions to various exotic locations, including St Pierre and Miquelon and Monaco, among other locales.

From the 1940s through the 1980s, Orr was a frequent contributor to QST, writing about tube-type amplifiers, Project OSCAR, and other topics. Orr constructed some of the amplifiers once used at ARRL Maxim Memorial Station W1AW.

For many years Orr worked with tube manufacturer EIMAC. Orr's application notes for EIMAC products were favourite reading within the amateur community. In later years, Orr penned columns for Ham Radio magazine and, more recently, for CQ.

In 1996, Orr was named the Dayton Hamvention Technical Excellence award winner.

Chip Margelli, K7JA, of Yaesu, said Orr's readers always could build his projects knowing that Orr had tested them in the field first to be sure they worked.

Orr owned a condominium in Maui, Hawaii, and operated from there two or three times a year as KH6ADR.

Orr's wife, Sunny, died about five years ago, and he lived alone. He is survived by four daughters and a son.
May he rest in peace.

Silent Keys

Joseph (Joe) Bugg, EI4FT

Joe was a big fellow in all ways, especially in his heart and willingness to undertake any task and he was respected by everyone, always ready to turn out for AREN work, whatever the weather, always ready to assist in GREC activities, provide transport and assistance to anyone who needed it.

I knew Joe long before he became a radio amateur, but he was always an avid listener. Our first meeting was at the Royal Navy's Signal school, HMS Mercury, when he was undergoing his Petty Officers course (successfully) then off back to sea and then Northern Ireland where he was an instructor aboard HMS Caroline, the Royal Naval Reserve training base in Belfast.

When we decided to restore the Bridge Wireless Office aboard HMS Belfast in the Pool of London, he was always ready to help, if he could get the time off and he always supported our annual Easter activity from that ship, there were problems which gave many a good laugh, but not Joe, at that time he drove an old Volkswagen Beetle, with Republic number plates and although I had informed the local police, we went ashore one morning for breakfast to find the bomb squad ready to launch that Beetle into outer space, big shout from Joe "Me car, me car" and lots of explanations and another visit by me to the local police station, where things were smoothed out and even Joe eventually ended up laughing.

Eventually he was retired from the Navy on health grounds, they could not get his weight down and he got down to study and it was not long before EI4FT was active from Kinvara in Co. Galway and I began my frequent visits, first as EI4VIJ then EI4HM, I always received wonderful hospitality and lots of assistance with my many antenna experiments, erecting a doublet in atrocious weather, which left us both frozen stiff and crouching round the small turf fire in the shack trying to thaw out, he kept me fed and watered during many a long contest in which I normally ended up as top EI single operator entry.

I will always be grateful to Big Joe and will remember him with great affection, as will the staff at the Merlin Park and Galway City hospitals, the lovely people in Kinvara and those who live on Bofin.

Rest in peace old pal, you were taken from us much, much to early.

Don Walmsley EI4HM/G3HZL

Dermot Cullen EI9BT

I knew Dermot for many years, first making his acquaintance in 1955, when he was G3AXP and we were working at Heathrow Airport for British Overseas Airways (BOAC) and doing the same work as ground aircraft electricians, good days. He was an extremely active member of the Speedbird Amateur Radio Club (G3NAF), firstly from an old hut right in the middle of the airport, then from Meadowbank and eventually from the new club complex at Cranford, great days using Heathkit TX and an old aircraft RX (I was in production engineering by then) scrounged when our overseas ground radio stations either closed or were taken over by IAL and much equipment was returned to base for disposal and myself and John, G3SAZ senior supplies officer scrounged anything we could lay our hands on, why pay when you could scrounge.

Like myself Dermot was a dedicated CW operator until severe arthritis made using a straight key very painful.

Dermot put that problem down to being a Japanese Prisoner of War and the privations he suffered whilst working on the Burma- Thailand railway, he did not talk too much about those times and he died before he could receive the much fought for compensation, that £10,000 would have helped a lot in his declining years, he could have afforded a decent rig.

A good and decent man who remained single, always a bit of a rebel at work and we enjoyed many heated but friendly arguments, but also many good times discussing DXing.

May he rest in peace.

Don Walmsley EI4HM/G3HZL

Letters Page

E-QSL Cards

Dear Dave,

<http://www.eqsl.org/qlscard/index.cfm>

The above link may be of use to readers of Echo Ireland.

The A.R.R.L say they are "working on" accepting the E-QSL cards on this site (when printed) for all major awards. You will find a link on this site to e-mail A.R.R.L on this matter. Maybe a mail from the I.R.T.S president may help to swing a decision finally.

All my HF operations are on digital modes and this is now the most popular means of QSLing with several advantages as follows

- 1 Speed (no up to 1 or 2 years via the bureau), get today's cards this evening.
- 2 Cost (no IRC, dollars, postage, s.S.A.E. and printing costs). It's free although donations are appreciated.
- 3 Environmentally friendly.
- 4 Space saving - no more biscuit tins full of old cards in the attic never to see the light of day again.
- 5 They lessen the work of bureau Managers (allowing them more time on radio).

The cards are quiet colourful with a good selection of standard cards free to choose from or you can upload your own design/photo to the site for \$10...

73

James EI2IV

ei2iv@gofree.indigo.ie

Long Lost Pen Friend

I have received an email from Paul Debono 9H1FQ, who is trying to renew contact with an Irish pen-friend he corresponded with 40 years ago. This pen-friend - who frequently sent magazines like Practical Wireless to Paul - used to work on a fishing trawler, and held an amateur radio licence. Paul had a QSO with him a few years ago, but lost his call sign and other details.

If this is you - or you know who it is - please contact Paul at his email address: marconi@maltanet.net.

Joe Ryan EI7GY

QSL Information Wanted

Greetings. I recently contacted a station that is located 15 mile North of Belfast. I can not remember the exact name of the town, but it ended in Corey. The callsign of the station is GI0TIC. I can not find his address to send him a QSL Card. Do you have it on record, is he a member of your establishment, or is there a way I can find it?

Cpl Terry Reinert

KG4JSC Terry K. Reinert,

e-mail: treinert@islc.net

Irish Radio Transmitters Society Annual General Meeting April 7/8th, 2001 Limerick Inn Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick.

Details from Paul EI6FE
061-360122
ei6fe@eircom.net

Hosted by Limerick Radio Club

South Dublin Radio Club

Attendance at the SDR Christmas Party included two visitors who travelled from Co. Antrim.

They were Jim Hoey GI0BJH and Alan Stewart GI6IXD, who are members of GEARS (Glengormley Electronic and Amateur Radio Society), which is twinned with South Dublin Radio Club. GEARS and SDR have participated in a number of joint events over the past few years, and are planning more such events for 2001.

As part of the twinning arrangement, all members of SDR are automatically enrolled as members of the Co. Antrim club, and all GEARS members automatically become members of SDR.

Autumn Challenge

South Dublin Radio Club, sponsors of the Spring Challenge which takes place in February each year, also runs a similar event, confined to club members, in the Autumn.

This year, a new VHF Section was added to cater for the many new B call holders in the club. The Autumn Challenge prize winners were as follows:

Open Section (All HF Bands, all modes)

Joe Ryan EI7GY.

As a matter of interest, Joe won the section prize using CW only.

Restricted Section (One HF Band, CW only)

Jim Holohan EI4HH

VHF Section

(VHF/UHF Bands, all modes)

Mark Condon EI7FNB

Prizes were presented to the winners at the SDR Christmas Party.

The usual Tuesday night meetings of South Dublin Radio Club resumed on Tuesday 9th January at 8.00 pm.

The SDR Morse class is now well advanced and the seven pupils in the current class are all committed to taking the Morse test early in 2001.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of South Dublin Radio Club will take place on Tuesday 13th February at 8.00 pm in the club's QTH at the Ballyroan Community Centre, Marian Road, Rathfarnham.

All members are requested to attend.

Joe EI7GY



Maurice EI8DS, John EI6AK and Billy EI8EYB (junior op of EI8DS)

Final Squares Table 2000

Call	2m	4m	6m	70cm	23cm	Total
EI5FK	129	0	405	16	0	550
EI7GL	71	11	356	1	0	439
EI3IO	0	18	405	0	0	423
EI4IX	78	0	240	0	0	318
EI2FSB	53	0	167	2	0	222
EI7FAB	0	1	84	0	0	85
GW0PLP/P	0	0	74	0	0	74
EI7IX	13	0	51	1	0	65
EI5FDB	0	0	50	0	0	50
EI3IX	4	0	38	2	0	44
EI6IZ	0	0	30	0	0	30

That's the final table for 2000. Thanks to all who submitted details.

Please start again for the current year.

New entries and updates to Joe Fadden EI3IX at joe_fadden@yahoo.com



IRTS President, Dave EI4BZ with Frances Taheny EI5J, Chairperson of the Mayo Radio Experimenters Network and Gerry Cregg EI4GD

Worked All Britain National Science Week Award

"The Man Who Shrunk the World"
Friday 16th March
to Sunday 25th March 2001.

As an affiliated club, we would like to offer our limited assistance to support the RSGB, the "British Association for the Advancement of Science" and "Marconi" in their support for National Science Week.

As an Awards Group, we are offering an Award for the month of March and especially for National Science Week.

The Award is for contacts made during the month of March, and for no other time.

The Award will be available for 20 points on VHF or 40 points on HF.

Each contact must be with a W.A.B. Area for 1 point or a W.A.B. Book-holder for 1 point.

Each person or club may claim additional certificates for each additional 20 points on VHF or 40 points on HF.

Certificates can be endorsed with whatever the recipient asks for. We have designed a special certificate for the occasion.

The price of certificates claimed will be at our normal fee of £3 per certificate.

The Award can be claimed in one, or both, of two ways, for contacts during the whole of March or for contacts during the 10 days 16th - 25th March. The requirements are the same for both.

There will be an additional Award with a different certificate of which there will only be two awarded, one for VHF and one for HF.

This Award will be to the person or club who have the highest number of points for contacts made during the 10 days 16th - 25th March and have claimed at least one certificate for the first Award including only contacts made during those 10 days.

To qualify for inclusion to be chosen for this Award, claims for the first Award must be made at least 14 days before our AGM in June and will be presented at that AGM.

North Dublin Radio Club

EI2MM ☐
EI2BLH ☐



North Dublin Radio Club Celebrates Year 2000

NDR QSL Card used for all club events during the year 2000. The card shows the Baily Lighthouse where the club enjoyed a wonderful special event station for the Lighthouses on the air weekend.

Antennas used at the station were a 150ft high 80 meter dipole, a 3 element tri-band beam for 10, 15 and 20 meters and a 12 element VHF Yagi.

The Year 2000 at North Dublin Radio Club

The North Dublin Radio Club set out to have an eventful year to celebrate the year 2000. We applied to the IRTS to avail of the special call of EI2MM for special event stations.

The club decided to give a special push to promote Amateur Radio in our area and bring the hobby to the attention of the public.

Exhibition

The first event was to produce an exhibition depicting our hobby and all its features.

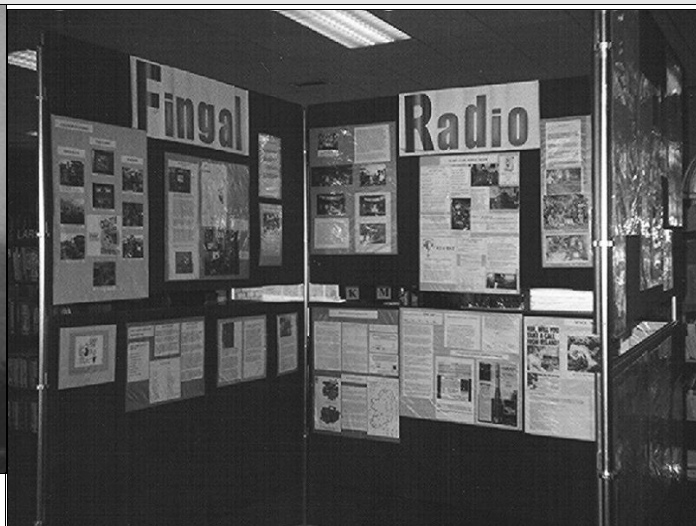
Joe EI4FV and Peadar EI2JA jumped in and produced an excellent exhibition. This was displayed in the Raheny, Coolock and Ballymun Libraries for four weeks at each location.

Demonstration Station

During this period a special demonstration station, open to the public was operated each Saturday at the premises of EI4BST in Bayside Scout Den in Sutton .



Joe EI4FV and Tony EI6EQB operate the PSK31 digital mode and demonstrate the mode to the club members for the first time at the Baily Lighthouse, special event station.



NDR Exhibition on display at the Ballymun Library to promote the Fingal Radio Club Open Day.



NDR Theory Class Exam of 2000

Left to right.

Andrew EI7FPB, Mark EI7FNB, Tom EI6K, Thos EI7FIB, Tony EI7FKB, TONY SWL, Richard SWL, Bernadette EI7FVB, Keelan EI1399, Tom EI7FSB, Sean EI7FTB, Tony EI6EQB, Joe EI4FV and Examiner for the ODTR Aidan Jennings.
Picture by Fred EI7FOB.

Theory Classes

Theory classes were promoted in the area and also night class publications. Classes commenced with nine students.

Dan Lloyd EI3AE kindly took on the committed job of as class tutor.

Audio SWR Meter

The club also undertook a project to design and build an Audio SWR Meter for use by our blind and disabled colleagues in the EI5HAM group.

The prototype was approved by Tony EI5EM and is now being tested live by the blind and disabled group.

When the unit gets the green light the club members will produce a number of these units as a club construction project.



At the opening of the NDR Exhibition at Raheny Library. Tom EI6K, Henry EI7FUB, Sean EI7FTB and Fred EI7FOB.

Counties Contest and VHF/UHF Field Day

The club took part in the counties contests and the VHF/UHF field day at Bellewstown Racecourse where a very enjoyable field day was held.

Baily Lighthouse Special Event Station

The highlight of the year for the club members was the special event Lighthouses on the Air weekend. NDR were kindly granted permission to operate from inside the Baily Lighthouse by the commissioner of Irish Lights.

The club purchased a tri-band HF beam (10, 15 and 20 meters) for this event. Other antennas included a 150ft. high 80 meter dipole and a 12 element VHF Yagi.

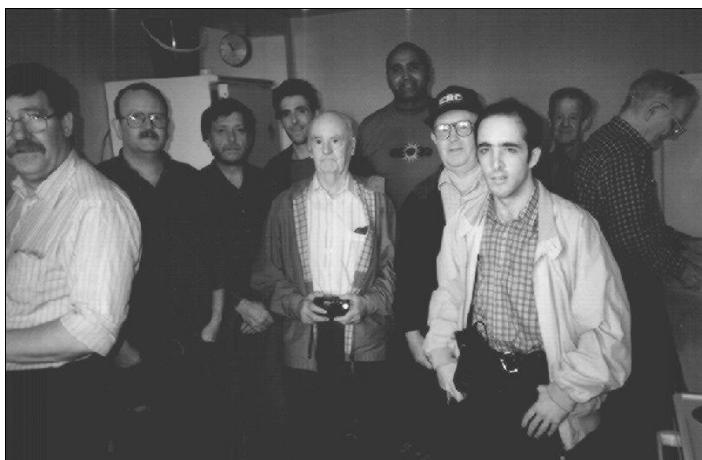
Two HF rigs and a VHF rig were pressed into operation.

PSK31 was also operated for the first time by the club, which attracted a lot of interest.

We were also treated to a special tour of the museum artefacts at the Baily Lighthouse, which depicted the history of equipment used and of Irish Lighthouses.

We express our gratitude to the commissioner of Irish Lights and also to the Lighthouse attendant Brendan Carty for the hospitality extended to us.

We look forward to a future event there



NDR members and visitors from SDR at the Baily Lighthouse, Howth. Special event station. L to R. Tony EI6EQB, Sean EI3IP, Dermot EI4ESB, Andrew EI7FPB, Eddie EI5IC, Tony EI7FKB, Sean EI7FTB, Nick EI5FLB, Joe EI4FV and Fred EI7FOB.



Some members of the NDR Theory class of 2000. From Left to Right.

Henry EI7FUB, Tom EI7FSB, Fred EI7FOB, Bernadette EI7FVB and Patricia SWL.

SSB Field Day

The HF Field day contest was held at the EI4BST Bayside Scout Den grounds in Sutton.

This site attracts a lot of interest from the passing public.

Llandudno Rally Trip

The Club also organised three day excursion to the Welsh rally at Llandudno in November where six members travelled over on the Friday night and returned just ahead of the storms on the Sunday. Many purchases were made by the travellers, including antennas, converted PMR rigs for 2 meters and some rare components.

Theory classes have commenced again for the winter period with five students signed up. Morse classes are also running during the winter months.

Christmas Dinner

The year came to a close with our annual Christmas dinner at the club premises at Chanel College, Coolock. Dublin 5, where a merry time was had by all.

The events of the last year and the interest they generated in gaining new members (9 this year) have given us encouragement to press on and continue to promote Amateur Radio in our area.

After all if they don't know you are there, then they will not come to you.

Contact Us

For further information about our club see our web page, www.iol.ie/~fammads/ei0ndr.htm

or contact the Secretary, Dermot EI4ESB email, fammads@iol.ie or Tony EI6EQB 087-2047008

My sincere thanks to the committee, all members and non members of NDR who made the events of the past year possible.

Tony Fay EI6EQB
Chairman NDR



Contest Corner

With
Dave EI4BZ
ei4bz@eircom.net

VHF Field Day 1st./2nd. July 2000

Section			Points
Open			
1st	EI7M	East Cork Group	111,019
2nd.	EI7KRC	Kells Radio Club	92,793
Restricted			
1st	EI7TRG	Tipperary ARG	24,170
2nd	EI0NDR	North Dublin RC	11,839

SSB Field Day September 2/3rd 2000

Section			QSOs	Points
Open				
1st	EI7M	East Cork Group	1,220	808,808
2nd	EI0NDR	North Dublin RC	214	36,880
Restricted				
1st	EI2K	Mayo REN	434	139,938
2nd	EI5CRC	Cork Radio Club	216	61,344

2 Metres Counties Contest August 27th 2000

Section			QSOs	Pts	Cntys	Total
High Power/P						
1st	EI6FE	Paul	68	257	20	5140
2nd	EI9E	EI2FG/7FJ	24	65	6	390
Low Power/P						
1st	EI4HX	Peter	43	188	15	2820
High Power Fixed						
1st	EI2IT	Tommy	47	112	16	179
2nd	EI2HI	Hugh	41	117	14	1638
3rd	EI4IX	David	29	113	10	1130
4th	EI6GF	Mick	18	91	8	728
5th	EI5FZB	David	17	52	8	516
6h	EI7FIB	Thomas	13	47	8	376
7th	EI5IO	Vincent	20	40	7	280
Low Power Fixed						
1st	EI3ENB	Paul	23	93	8	744
2nd	EI3FFB	Eddie	17	46	8	368
FM Only						
1st	EI7GY	Joe	41	203	19	3857
2nd	EI4IP	Sean	27	111	13	1443
3rd	EI6FWB	Padraic	24	99	11	1089
4th	EI4BZ	Dave	24	63	11	693
5th	EI2IU	Peter	18	75	9	675
6th	EI8IB	Brendan	17	60	6	360
7th	EI7IY	Robbie	18	39	7	273
8th	EI3IY	Hugh	10	17	4	68
Outside EI/GI						
1st	GW0PLP	Don	13	52	10	520

Thanks to EI6CPB and EI7GK for check logs.

Welcome to another edition of Contest Corner.

This time we have results from several contests and we thanks all those who participated and submitted logs.

Unfortunately, the field day entries are once again very disappointing but it's nice to see a new name getting on the trophies, that's the Mayo gang in the restricted section of SSB Field Day.

What can we do to get more people out portable?

The lack of portable stations is also very noticeable in the Autumn Counties Contest despite the fine number of entries.

The Spring Counties Contest will be held on Easter Monday as usual and that's on April 16th.

Please note the rule changes (see page 12 in the Year Book) coming into effect for this contest.

After any QSO in which you are called by another station, you must QSY to another channel (on FM) or by at least 3 kHz on SSB before soliciting another QSO.

When you respond to a CQ or QRZ? From another station, then you have the right to that frequency for a single additional QSO.

The changes should result in more QSOs as some areas have had major problems when stations sat on a channel for the two hours on FM continuously calling CQ and doing very little business and denying use of the frequency to other stations.

Every station should get a chance over the two hours.

Tim EI8IC has a fine web-site up and running and it's of particular interest to testers. See full details on page ??.

All EI contest scores in most international contests over the past few years are listed and also identified are contests which did not have an EI entry.

Another site well worth a look is that run by John EI7GL.

In fact, this site was listed as site of the month in a recent CQ Magazine. There is a link from the IRTS site.

The big contests in the coming weeks are the ARRL CW on February the 17/18th and SSB on March 3/4th.

These are always of great interest to EI operators and are essential for those looking to complete the Worked All States awards.

The full contest listing are on the opposite page.

Don't forget to start planning for the field days!

73,
Dave

ARRL 10 Metre Contest 1999

	Points	QSOs	Mults
Mixed Mode			
EI5DI	450,722	747	179
EI4DW	312,256	717	164
Phone only			
EI8IR	397,048	1,601	124
EI9HQ	382,774	1,440	133
EI8GS	258,448	1,114	116

Contest Calender

February

10/11th	0000 - 2400	CQ/RJ WW WPX Contest	RTTY
10/11th	1200 - 1200	Dutch PACC Contest	
10/11th	2100 - 0100	RSGB Top Band	CW
17/18th	0000 - 2400	ARRL DX Contest	CW
23/25th	2200 - 1600	CQ 160m Contest	SSB
24/25th	0600 - 1800	REF Contest	SSB
24/25th	1300 - 1300	UBA Contest	CW
24/25th	1500 - 0900	RSGB 7 MHz DX Contest	CW

March

3/4th	0000 - 2400	ARRL DX Contest	SSB
17/18th	0000 - 2400	Alaska QSO Party	All Modes
17/18th	1200 - 1200	Russian DX Contest	CW/SSB
17/19th	0200 - 0200	BARTG WW Contest	RTTY
24/25th	0000 - 2400	CQWW WPX Contest	SSB

April

7/8th	1500 - 1500	SP DX Contest	CW/SSB
7/8th	1600 - 1600	EA RTTY Contest	RTTY
7/8th	1800 - 1800	King of Spain Contest	CW/SSB
13/15th	2300 - 2300	Japan Intl DX 20-10m	CW
14/15th	1800 - 1800	Holyland DX Contest	CW/SSB
16th	1400 - 1600	Local IRTS 2 Metres Counties Contest	SSB & FM
21/22nd	1200 - 1200	YU DX Contest	CW/SSB
21st	1500 - 1859	EU Spring Sprint	SSB
28/29th	1300 - 1300	Helvetia DX Contest	CW/SSB

May

5/6th	2000 - 2000	ARI International DX	All Modes
5/6th	0000 - 0600	Nevada QSO Party	All Modes
5/6th	0000 - 2400	Danish SSTV	SSTV
5/6th	0001 - 2400	Ten-Ten Intl QSO Party	CW/RTTY
12th	1700 - 2100	FISTS Spring Sprint	CW
12/13th	2100 - 2100	CQ-M International DX	CW/SSB/SSTV
19th	1500 - 1859	EU Spring Sprint	CW
26/27th	0000 - 2400	CQ WPX Contest	CW

June

2/3rd	1500 - 1500	IARU Region 1 Field Day	CW
9/10th	0000 - 1600	South America WW	CW
9th	0000 - 2400	Portugal Day Contest	SSB
16/17th	0000 - 2400	All Asian DX Contest	CW
23/24th	1400 - 1400	Marconi Memorial HF Contest	CW
23/24th	1200 - 2400	SP QRP Contest	CW

July

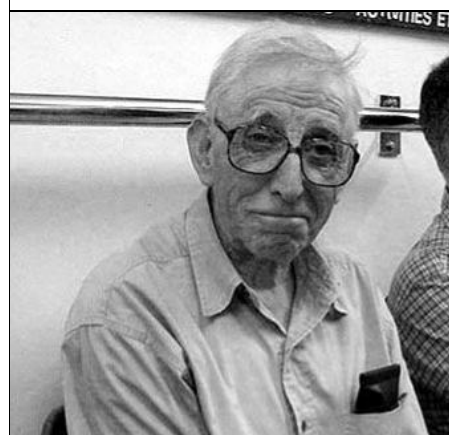
30/1st	0000 - 2400	Venezuelan Independence Day	SSB
1	0000 - 2359	Canada Day Contest	CW/SS
7/8th	1400 - 1400	IRTS VHF/UHF Field Day	CW/SSB
7/8th	1800 - 2400	Internet 6m DX Contest	CW/SSB
14/15th	1200 - 1200	IARU HF Championship	CW/SSB
15th	0000 - 2400	Colombian Independence	CW/SSB/RTTY
28/29th	0000 - 2400	Russian RTTY WW	RTTY
28/29th	0000 - 2400	Venezuelan Independence Day	CW
28/29th	1200 - 1200	IOTA Contest	CW/SSB

Most of this information is produced courtesy of WA7BNM and the SM3CER Contest pages. Full details of all these contests are available on their web pages:
<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal.html> and <http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/cose0105.htm>



2m Counties Presentation

Don GW0PLP (on right) being presented with the trophy for the overseas section of the Autumn leg of the IRTS 2 Metres Counties Contest by IRTS Awards Manager, Peter Grant EI4HX. Also in picture is Don's XYL, Sandra
 Picture by EI4IP.



South Dublin Restricted Section Spring Challenge Winner 2000

Tom EI2AJ who won the Restricted Section of the South Dublin Spring Challenge in 2000. The Challenge runs annually for the month of February. See page 23 of the IRTS Year Book.



Joe Ryan EI7GY

Winner of the FM Section of the Autumn 2 Metres Counties Contest and winner of the South Dublin Autumn Challenge Open Section using CW only. Joe is membership officer with the IRTS.

Six Metre Award Claims

Two new awards for activity on the Six Metre Band were introduced by the IRTS last year:

- Ø The EI7IQ National Six Metre shield is awarded to the leading EI/EJ IRTS member for activity in the previous calendar year.
- Ø The EI7IQ International Six Metre shield is awarded to the leading non-EI/EJ IRTS member for activity in the previous calendar year.

These awards will be made at the AGM. Scoring for the awards is calculated as follows: one point per unique QSO multiplied by the number of unique Maidenhead Locator Squares worked (i.e. Big Squares: IO53 etc) and this score multiplied by the total number of DXCC countries worked.

Claims with log should be sent to the Contest Manager John McDonnell EI6IR at QTHR or by e mail – text files only – to ei6ir@eircom.net

Please send your entries immediately even if you did not have a particularly high score, the society is anxious to judge activity on this band.

PSK 31 Update

A new version of Digipan the leading(?) software for PSK 31 is now available. Digipan is a great programme, really easy to use, and can be downloaded free from the internet at <http://members.home.com/hteller/digipan/>

One thing that really annoys me personally about PSK QSOs.....

If you want to work quick fire contacts, you will find it very difficult on this mode. All of the stations on the band want to tell you what a wonderful computer they have, it's full detailed specifications, the make model and serial number of each unique constituent component of it, - and then they tell you about the software on board, the version, author etc etc! Computers for me are slaves, - not masters or gods. I don't want to know the details. 59,73s will do fine thanks!

I suspect that the problem is partially caused by the ease of use of blocks of memory, accessed via the Function keys of the computer keyboard. You can store all this information easily and transmit it even easier, with just one key stroke in fact. Which is both a blessing and a curse! Perhaps it is just me.....

Dayton Hamvention

The 2001 Dayton Hamvention will be held in the Hara Arena again this year on May 18 to 20. This is the 50th show and it promises to be memorable, as usual. It is a great event and well worth a visit, but it can be costly getting there. Flights from Belfast to Toronto could be an option. The sterling has dropped slightly I have noticed in the last few days, and if this trend continues, then this could work out reasonable enough. A group could then hire a car or MPV and travel down to Dayton.

I went last year, Aer Lingus, - Shannon to Chicago. This was costly enough. However I had to make a hastily planned trip in early December from Shannon to Kennedy Airport in New York and I thought I had bought the plane with the return fare I had to pay!

If you do decide to go to Dayton remember that much of the new equipment on offer will not be European spec. and check out the warranty situation closely. Also remember the prices quoted are subject to sales tax (similar to our VAT) which negates any perceived really good value.

Also try and make a holiday out of it, the country side is beautiful and it is a nice area to visit and look around.

Trans-Atlantic Beacon

Mark Casey, K1MAP tells me that members of the USS based, North East Weak Signal Group (NEWS) are currently rebuilding the Trans-Atlantic beacon. It is expected that the beacon will return on the air during early spring of 2001 from its location in Rhode Island, and on 144.282 MHz.

Several members of our group, Mark included, are interested in accomplishing the feat of a 2 meter contact from Europe to the US. Mark is one of the many US Amateurs interested in the Brendan Trophies, and can be contacted via the Call Book or on email map@map.com.

Death of Al Gross, W8PAL

The man who brought the world such indispensable wireless communications concepts and devices as the walkie-talkie, pager and cordless telephone has died. Al Gross, W8PAL, of Sun City, Arizona, passed away on December 21. He was 82.

Gross obtained his Amateur Radio license in 1934 at the age of 16. His early interest in Amateur Radio helped set his career choice while he was still a teenager.

Gross pioneered the development of devices that operated in the relatively unexplored VHF and UHF spectrum above 100 MHz.

His first invention was a portable hand-held radio transmitter-receiver. Developed in 1938 while he was still in high school in Cleveland, he christened it the "walkie-talkie." The device caught the attention of the US Office of Strategic Services—the forerunner of the Central Intelligence Agency. The OSS recruited Gross, and this led to the invention of a two-way air-to-ground communications system used by the military behind enemy lines during World War II. The system allowed OSS agents to communicate with high-flying aircraft.

After World War II, Gross set up Gross Electronics Inc to design and build various communications products, some of them under government contracts. He also launched Citizens Radio Corporation to design, develop and manufacture personal wireless devices.

Cartoonist Chester Gould asked if he could use Gross' concept of a miniaturized two-way radio in his Dick Tracy comic strip. The result was the Dick Tracy two-way wrist radio.

During the 1950s and 1960s, Gross secured several patents for various portable and cordless telephone devices. In September 1958 Gross Electronics received FCC type approval for mobile and hand-held transceivers for use on the new Class D 27-MHz Citizens Band.

"If you have a cordless telephone or a cellular telephone or a walkie talkie or beeper, you've got one of my patents," Gross once said. He added that if his patents on those technologies hadn't run out in 1971, he'd have been a millionaire several times over.

Over the years, Gross worked as a communications specialist for several large companies. Since 1990 and until his death, he was a senior engineer for Orbital Sciences Corporation.

Gross received numerous awards and honours during his distinguished career, including the 1992 Fred B. Link Award from the Radio Club of America and the 1999 Edwin Howard Armstrong Achievement Award from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

As his IEEE biography put it: "It is clear that Mr. Gross was a true pioneer and helped lead the way to today's wireless personal communications revolution."

Gross is survived by his wife, Ethel. A burial mass was held December 27 in Sun City.

5WPM in Germany

Germany is the latest country to drop it's Morse Code speed to 5 WPM.

Regulators there have approved a change in it's Amateur Radio rules that lowers from 12 WPM to 5 WPM the Morse code text speed required for HF operation. The Second Order for the Change of Amateur Radio Regulations was issued December 13, 2000, by the Federal Minister for Economics and Technology. Is this good or bad news, please let the Echo Ireland team know.

"Mother Of All Jamming Stations" Continues To Plague 40 Meters

For some months now, regular users of the 40-meter band have been plagued from time to time by strong, very broad, frequency-hopping signals that somewhat resemble a slow-scan TV transmission. The signals, it turns out, originate from jamming stations in the Middle East.

"We know exactly what this is," said ARRL Monitoring System Coordinator Brennan Price, N4QX. "This is a very high-power Iranian jammer, of a very high-power Iraqi short-wave broadcast station."

The loud buzzing signals have been heard on the 40-meter CW and phone bands and have even been "spotted" on packet. The jammers occupy about 10 kHz of spectrum.

Several SWLs identified the short-wave station as The Voice of the Mojahadin--broadcasting in Persian into Iran on various 40-meter frequencies as well as in the Aeronautical Band. The pirate station operates on a specific frequency--or frequencies--until it's spotted by the Iranians, who then attempt to jam the signal. The broadcaster then hops to another frequency to avoid the jamming, which explains why the jammer will suddenly pop up on a frequency for several min-

utes at a time and then disappear. This results in a situation where it's hard to predict when the jammers might show up on a given frequency block or how long they'll stay.

Price said that neither station is transmitting where it is supposed to be. "The Iranian and Iraqi telecommunications administrations have been advised of this," he said.

Price says that such "politically motivated" intruders typically don't disappear until the political situation changes. "The 'woodpecker' went away when the Cold War did," he said.

ARRL Despatch 1.8million QSLs

And Hugh O'Donnell EI2HI thinks he has a workload! The ARRL have informed me that their Outgoing QSL Service shipped 1,868,895 QSL cards to various QSL Bureaus around the world, in the year just past.

QSL Service Manager Martin Cook, N1FOC, reports that this is 15,025 more cards than during 1999. Yours should be along any minute now!

Cork ATV Group

The inaugural meeting of the Cork ATV group was held on 12th January. Nine members were present. The group will take over responsibility for the ATV repeater EI2TVR.

A very generous present was made to the group of an expensive screen splitter permitting for four different inputs. It is hoped to have this fitted to the repeater before too long.

The group has also become affiliated to IRTS.

Membership is £10 which can be sent to Aedan EI3EG QTHR.

News Bulletin on CW

**Sundays at 1030
on 7.032MHz**

**Sent by Pat EI9EZ
from
Cappoquin,
Co. Waterford**

10 Metres in the Millennium Year By Francis Fitzpatrick EI7HE

It was good to see 10 metres in such good shape during the year 2000.

Spare time to spend at ham radio during the past year, for me, was very limited due to work and other commitments. It never ceases to amaze me what can turn up on 28 MHz despite all the QRM, QSB and occasional bad manners.

I operate a very simple low power set-up which includes: 2 mono band transceivers (10w and 20 w) and the aerial is a full wave, wire delta loop mounted in the attic of our two storey house.

During the year 2000 some of the DX call worked included:

J64AS, St. Lucia
V47KP, St. Kitts
J87AB, St. Vincent
P40V, Aruba
VP5V, Turks & Caicos
HC1HC, Ecuador,
FM5DN, Martinique
CP6XE, Bolivia
AL7O, Alaska
3DA0WPX, Swaziland
TR8CA, Gabon
SU9ZZ, Egypt
5A1A, Libya
5C8M, Morocco
VU3GTF, India
ZC4RAF, Cyprus
E41/OK1DTP, Bethlehem
EX8MDA, Kyrgystan

I am delighted to say that having sent dollars and IRCs for QSLs, about half the above have sent back QSL cards direct.

During the short skip conditions of the summer, some good contacts were made with HB0/PI4TUE in Leichstein, J43O in Greece and ZA/OK1JR in Albania.

Hopefully 10 metres will be good again in 2001 and we will all work lots of DX to fill those log pages..

On that note I wish all the readers of Echo Ireland a belated Happy New Year and good DX.

73 de Francis EI7HE.

This article is a follow on from a previous one, I have been asked by several members to do a more technical paper.

The first thing that we need to do is to ask a very simple question, how does telephone breakthrough occur.

You need to understand this before you can cure it. In practice breakthrough is simply unwanted reception. RF energy can get in by two means, direct pickup-by the internal components of the phone or by external cables acting as an antenna delivering significant amounts of RF to the phone. The latter is the main problem.

Any transmitter can be the source of the interference although some modes are far worse than others SSB been the main offender. The level of breakthrough can vary from virtually unnoticeable to very severe. As the severity increases so does the level of protection needed.

To protect any piece of equipment from breakthrough you could simply add a few components to form a low pass filter tuned to the offending frequency and it would simply be shorted down to earth.

This is not very practical and may even void equipment warranties. The simplest solution that we have in our armoury is to simply choke off any unwanted RF. We can do this because the majority of breakthrough is caused by **Common Mode** pickup. This is quite simple, if you can imagine that in an electrical circuit current will normally flow from the source out to the load and back to the source, you end up with equal but opposite current flows in the cable (**Differential Mode**). There will be little or no magnetic field generated by the flow of this alternating current however if you consider two closely spaced cables with respect to the wavelength of the RF field they will appear to be just one wire. A current will flow down the cable into your piece of equipment and find an earth somewhere.

This is a unidirectional flow of current and there will be an associated magnetic field generated. This is known as Common Mode pickup.

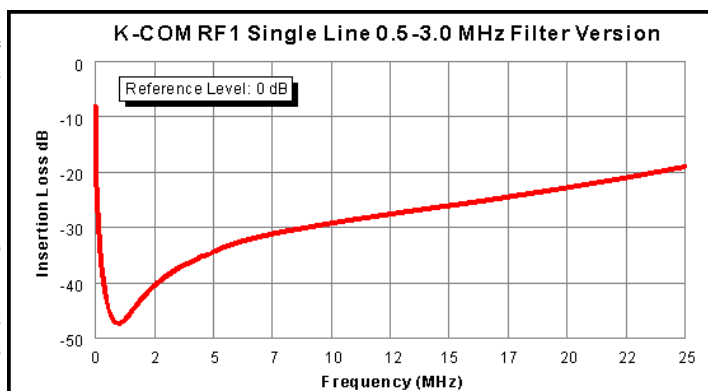


Fig. 1

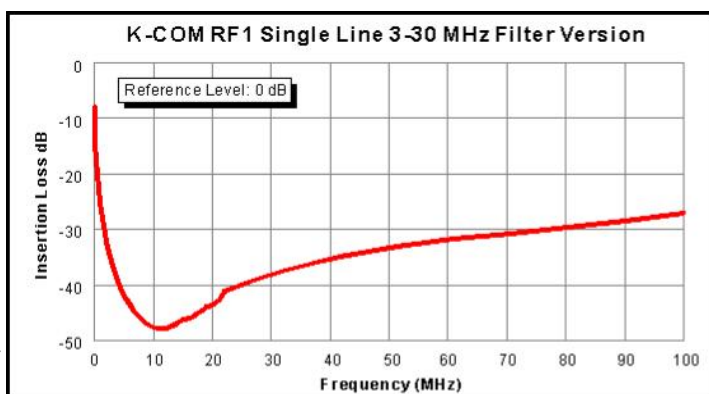


Fig. 2

We can use this to our advantage, if we form a coil using a good material as the former then this magnetic field will experience a high impedance and will not enter the telephone.

Electrically, most filters operate in the common-mode. These filters are transparent in the differential mode. Because they introduce negligible impedance at the frequencies of telephone signals, they also have no effect on proper operation of the phone.

I have used a number of these types of filters with great success. I have experience with the Opto Tec range of filters. These do not seem to be available any more.

I am presently chasing up a replacement, and I am giving serious thought to the K Com range of modular filters.

For bad cases they also produce a hard-wired unit. They are available in several bands and this needs to be specified when ordering.

BT also has a range of filters but their problem is that they are fitted with a bigger plug than our RJ11.

Figures 1 and 2 show their published data for two of their filters. As you can see they claim to offer very good rejection over the required band. In Fig 2 there is greater than 40dB rejection between 4 and 25 MHz this is excellent.

The secret is to get the filter as close to the phone as possible.

Remember that all your phone cable will be acting as an antenna. There may be long runs from the cable point of entry to the actual phone.

You maybe lucky and live in an area where there are underground cables to your house, this will reduce the pick up.

If not you may have to fit a filter where the cable enters the building and another at the phone. It is all-fixable but the level of filtering required will only be found by trial and error.

There is no point in going over the top unnecessarily. It will only cost you more money.

If you are unfortunate like I was, all was quiet for years until I put up an Antron 99 for 10m, all hell broke loose.

Being a vertical and unbalanced antenna this was asking for trouble.

Our neighbour was great about it, remember you need their co-operation.

I fitted a modular filter at the back of the phone but alas no good; there was a slight reduction but not enough.

Your next step is to use one of the hard-wired filters in series with a choke.

The choke must be wound in a particular way and the core must be of known pedigree.

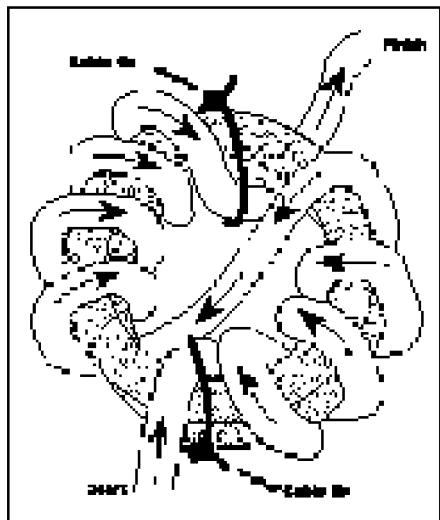
There are lots of different grades of Ferrite Rings available.

The one that I used was Fair Rite 43 (this has a good permeability from 7 MHz up) and they are available from the RSGB.

(Continued on page 17)

There is only one way to wind a choke and this is illustrated in figure 3.

Winding the choke in this way will minimise the self capacitance of the windings thus aiding to its overall impedance.



This was then connected in series with an Opto Tec filter and put it in a small box.

I then fitted the assembly close to the phone and the breakthrough was gone.

It even cured by breakthrough on 144 MHz SSB. The cable I used to wind the choke was just a length of audio cable that was lying around the shack.

You will need to try and get 12 turns on the ring.

Every case is unique, I hope that this article gave you a better understanding of how to cure telephone breakthrough.

Thanks must be given to the RSGB and to K Com USA for making their data available.

Until the next time,

73 de Paul EI6FE

New EI8IC Web Site

All EI experimenters are invited to visit a new EI resource site on the internet at <http://www.qsl.net/ei8ic/> which contains the following areas of interest:

An HF Contest Calendar, listing the major HF contests of interest to EI contesters.

An EI HF Results section, that lists all EI entries to most of the major HF contests since 1996.

A 100% Winner section, that guarantees you the leading place in certain HF contests.

A Budget Contester section, that explains different ways of competing in contests whilst on a budget.

A Contest Forum, where EI contesters are encouraged to add comments, questions and scores.

An EI-Ham Buy-And-Sell-It Forum, where people can advertise equipment for sale, wanted or exchange.

A Useful Links section, that tells you something about the linked site before you go there.

EI8IC's Home Pages, where you can check out his station, antenna farm, and search his recent contest logs without having to download a Java-applet.

Irish Amateur Television Club

On Tuesday the 9th of January viewers of the ATV Repeater EI2ATR, watched live pictures of the eclipse of the Moon.

Due to the forecast inclement weather, members had links set up in the greater Dublin area, and in Dundalk, to overcome possible cloud cover.

As it turned out most of the event was covered from North County Dublin which had good clear skies for most of the evening.

Charlie EI2EM who lives in Swords Co Dublin, sent live pictures of the event, on 24 cm to Rod EI3CZ, who then relayed the pictures on 3cm to the repeater site in Co Cavan, which in turn broadcast on both 24cm and 3cm to viewers in Dublin, Cavan and Co Louth.

This proved very successful and showed again the usefulness of the repeater. If due to cloud you missed the eclipse live, maybe next time you might tune in to your local repeater, as interesting events are often covered.

For further information on this aspect of the hobby, call into the ATV talkback net on 144.75 MHz any evening, or visit the Web site of the Irish Amateur Television Club at <http://homepage.eircom.net/~iadc> (all lower case) or EI2EM at QTHR.

Watch also for demonstrations at Rallies throughout the year.

Mayo Radio Experimenters Network

The second annual Mayo REN Christmas party was held in Westport on Saturday December 16th. The guests of honour were Dave Moore EI4BZ, IRTS President, and his wife Olive. The dinner was very well attended and an enjoyable night was had by all.

At the club's recent AGM, history was made when Frances Taheny EI5J, was elected Chairperson of the club, the first female Chairperson of a radio club in Ireland! Gerry Cregg EI4GD, was elected Secretary/Treasurer and Michael Clarke EI3IG was elected IRTS Club Representative and QSL Manager. Night classes in theory and CW will commence after Christmas, with tutors Brendan Minish EI6IZ and Dermot Adams EI7IX. Details are available on (094) 60127.

Irish Radio Transmitters Society

2 Metres Counties Contest

Monday April 16th

1400 - 1600 (local)

Check out new rules

IRTS VIDEO LIBRARY

Listed below are the videos being held by the IRTS Video Library. A charge of £1.50 will be made to cover the cost of posting which must accompany any application. Please send your requests to: Jim Ryan EI3DP, 11 Knockgriffin, Midleton, Co. Cork.

Amateur Radio for beginners (RSGB)

This is an excellent video in two parts, the hobby of the space age, (22 minutes) followed by “ How to become a radio Amateur”. (21 minutes)

Fastnet Force 7

A record of the DXpedition to Fastnet Rock Lighthouse, (40 minutes)

Kippure

A tour of the RTE Radio/TV site at Kippure mountain (30 minutes)

Howland Island Dxpedition

Record of the HI Group 1988 trip NO1Z / KH1. (30 minutes)

The New World of Amateur Radio – ARRL

A short introduction to the hobby of Amateur Radio (30 minutes)

Amateur TV in Australia – VK5KG

An introduction to FSTV in Australia. (30 minutes)

Seven Days in Space – NASA

A week on board the American shuttle Discovery. (60 minutes)

Amateur TV – RSGB

Fastscan TV in UK also includes the VK5KG film. (120 minutes)

DATA trip to Dayton 1990

A record of the trip to America by the Dublin Amateur Travel Association (120 minutes)

IRTS Anniversary Lunch

A record of the lunch held in the Clarence Hotel Dublin to pay tribute to the founder members of the IRTS, October 1992. (60 minutes)

Dublin Texas W5IMF

A tape by W5IMF at the time of the Dublin Millennium 1988, (30 minutes)

Introduction to Ham Radio

Includes STS 9 mission and fighter aircraft, (120 minutes)

Galway Radio Club 1984

Selection of events from 1984/1985. (40 minutes)

Galway Radio Club 1985

Selection of events from 1985, Field Day, Aerial lecture and River race. (120 minutes)

Pitcairn Islands

A look at life on the islands including some of the resident amateurs. (70 minutes)

Getting started in Packet Radio. CQ Mag.

How to set up and get on air with Packet. (45 minutes)

Radio Team Finland PJ9W- 1990 CQWW SSB Contest

An account of the setting up and operation of the winning multi – operator contest station by a team of Finnish operators. (45 minutes)

CQ Field Day

Setting up and operating a Field Day station for club enjoyment, training and competition American style. (25 minutes)

Getting Started in Amateur Satellites

A guide to equipment and jargon of satellite communication for the beginner. (50 minutes)

Campbell Island 1999 – ZL9CI

A record of the record breaking DXpedition to Campbell Island. Declan EI6FR was a team member. (60 minutes).

WRTC 2000 in Slovenia

The 3rd World Radio Team Championships were held in Slovenia in the Summer of 2000. Jim EI8GS and Dave EI4BZ attended from Ireland.

If you have any videos suitable for inclusion on this last please consider donating a copy to the library.

Irish Radio Transmitters Society Book Sales Books, Maps, Logbooks etc.

S.A.E. to
Peter Grant, 37 Glenmore Park, Dundalk, Co. Louth
Telephone 042-9332641

Outgoing QSL Bureau

All cards for the outgoing bureau should be sent to the Outgoing QSL Manager

Hugh O'Donnell, EI2HI
Baurleigh, Bandon, CO. Cork.

What are they on about now?

A look at the workings of the IRTS committee with John Corless EI7IQ

Mayo 2002?

The final two Committee meetings of the year were held in November and December.

In November a letter of offer, for want of a better description, was received from the Mayo REN, regarding the 2002 AGM and Dinner. This was accepted after some discussion.

Of course, a lot of work has to be put in yet by the club, but they were looking for a provisional go-ahead which was given.

There has been good interest in hosting the AGM/Dinner in recent years and this is a very positive sign of club activity. The Committee take an active interest in progress of arrangements for the events, and hosting clubs normally report to each meeting on arrangements to date.

It will be interesting to see if the relatively new Mayo outfit has any fresh ideas to reverse the recent trend of falling attendances at rallies.

The 2001 event of course is to be held in Limerick, with the dinner on Saturday April 7 and the AGM on the following day. Dates for your diary!

Paul Kirkby EI6FE, has kept the Committee posted on progress.

See details elsewhere in this issue.

Brendan Trophies

VHF Manager Joe Fadden EI3IX, reported several enquiries from the USA and Canada regarding the Brendan Trophies for the first Transatlantic two metre contact.

No serious EI attempt has been made along these lines for a few years now, or so it appears.

Perhaps PSK31 will deliver the goods?

This is something clubs and groups should take a look at as an activity for the new year.

Full details of the awards are available on the website.

DXCC Checking

The Committee is trying to establish a DXCC checkpoint in Ireland, to simplify checking for awards.

At present QSL cards have to be posted abroad, but contact has been made with the ARRL in an attempt to simplify the process for EI enthusiasts.

Contest Results

Contest Manager John McDonnell, EI6IR, announced the results of the 2 Metres Counties Contest, SSB Field Day, and VHF Field Day Events, at the December meeting.

It appears there are still problems with logs, however John has contacted the relevant contestants and sorted out the difficulties.

Congratulations to all the winners and thanks all round to all of the competitors who make a considerable effort in the various competitions.

Licensing

A meeting was held between the IRTS and the ODTR on December 11 where the ongoing licensing issues were dealt with in some considerable detail.

I cannot unfortunately go into full detail on this matter yet, however progress has been made and I hope to be in a position to detail the situation soon.

Nominations

Towards the end of the year and early in the new year, is a busy time for the Committee with arrangements for the AGM, etc.

Each year the outgoing Committee must nominate eleven people to go forward for ratification at the AGM, and subsequently, if approved, to act as the new committee for the coming year.

At the January meeting this process took place and the following were selected: Brendan De hÓra, EI3GV, Joe Fadden, EI3IX, Sean Donelan, EI4GK, Peter Grant, EI4HX, Steve Wright, EI5DD, Paul O'Kane, EI5DI, Paul Kirkby, EI6FE, Noel Mulvihill, EI6HW, John McDonnell, EI6IR, Sean Nolan, EI7CD, Mark Wall EI7IS.

Dave Moore EI4BZ was nominated for another term as President and yours truly was nominated as Vice-President.

Of course all of this is subject to change at the AGM.

Full particulars on how you can get on to the Committee are detailed in the rules of the society, published in the current Yearbook, and covered elsewhere in this issue of Echo Ireland.

New people are always required and are most welcome. The committee meets about eight times a year and are ultimately selected at the AGM.

If you are interested in joining the Committee, or would like to nominate someone, please do not hesitate to do so.

The meetings are held in Athlone.

Of course Dave Moore won't leave it at attendance, you will probably end up with a job as well!

AREN

AREN, the emergency support network, which has been resurrected to some extent in recent times, is likely to have a new Committee after the AGM, as Tipperary man, Liam O'Brien, EI7FE, has indicated that he does not wish to head the Network after the AGM.

Liam has put a lot of effort into setting up the structures of AREN and is largely responsible for creating its present format.

Liam, along with Steve Wright EI5DD, Joe Fadden, EI3IX, Finbarr Sheehy EI4DWB and Tom Rea, EI2GP, are to be congratulated for their efforts and hard work, and Liam will be missed greatly.

Awards & Trophies

Awards Sub Committee chairperson, Peter Grant EI4HX, is looking to round up trophies as soon as possible so that they are all present and accounted for at the AGM.

If you are in possession of any of the relevant silverware Peter would like to get his hands on it.

Nominations for Trophies

In addition Peter is seeking nominations for this year's awards, and if you would like to nominate somebody, please contact Peter directly, QTHR, or telephone (042) 9332641 or e mail ei4hxpermental@eircom.net.

Until the next one

73s and Happy New Year.

John Corless EI7IQ.

Members Advertisements

Home Exchange

Southern California amateur would like to exchange homes for about three weeks next summer. Large home with pool. Located in Murrieta, 90 minutes or less from LA, San Diego, Disneyland, mountains, desert, beach. Golf nearby. HF/VHF station.

Dave kf6xa@qsl.net

More info at <http://www.nctimes.net/~althena/exchange.htm>

Wanted: DC/DC Converter for FT101ZD
Pat EI6HF on 0503-40086

Cork Radio Club

The Cork Radio Club concluded it's 25th year celebration with a gathering in Wilton Park House on November .24th.

It brought together both past and present members. A particular welcome was given to the Club's first Chairman Mr Dan Byrne EI2CK and to the IRTS President Dave Moore, himself a former member of the club.

Both addressed the gathering with reminiscences from the past before a specially made cake was cut by the present Chairman Finbarr EI1CS.

Refreshments were provided and an enjoyable evening was had by all.

Classes for the RAE have commenced and continue every Monday evening at 9. pm.

Anyone still interested can still join.

Members of the Club took part in the CQ WW contest and also in the ARRL 10m contest.

The club's annual Christmas junk sale and get together was held on Monday Dec 18th.

Radio News Service

All input for the radio news should be sent to:

Mark Wall EI7IS

22 Sunshine Crescent,
Waterford

086-6302026 or ei7is@qsl.net

Deadline 2100 on Tuesdays
for the following Sunday



This is the shack of David Waugh GI3OBO/EI2HP (EI-172).
David recently changed his callsign from GI0PCU

Executive Press QSL Card Printing

QSL Cards printed by Hams for Hams

Standard QSL Card - 1 Colour on 230gm Board

IR£65 - first 1000, then IR£25 per 1000 thereafter

Multi-colour, Double-side, Photo-Type quoted for

Contact :

Alan Whitty : 01- 6109954, 086-4029694,

or

Declan Craig EI6FR @ 01- 4502014 , 086-4027652,

email : ei6fr@gofree.indigo.ie

The Lough Erne Amateur Radio Club Annual Rally

on

April 22nd 2001

in the

Killyhevlin Hotel,
Dublin Road, Enniskillen.

Further information can be had from
Frank GI3ZMX at 028-6632-9507.

